Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL
Working for a better future

Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham, Executive Director - Resources

Report to:	**Overview and Scrutiny Management Board**
Date:	**24 August 2023**
Subject:	**Proposal for Scrutiny Review on Traffic Management in Lincolnshire**

Summary:

This report enables the Board to consider a proposal from the Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee for a potential scrutiny review on Traffic Management in Lincolnshire.

Actions Required:

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is invited:

(1) to determine whether to proceed with a scrutiny review on Traffic Management in Lincolnshire.

(2) subject to the agreement of (1), to allocate the scrutiny review on Traffic Management in Lincolnshire to Scrutiny Panel B to be undertaken as soon as it is practical to do so.

(3) to agree the draft terms of reference for the scrutiny review attached at Appendix B, subject to finalisation by Scrutiny Panel B.

1. Background

One of the essential roles of overview and scrutiny is to carry out in-depth reviews where the outcomes can clearly influence and improve policy and service delivery for the people of Lincolnshire. This is carried out by the two Scrutiny Panels, Scrutiny Panel A and Scrutiny Panel B.

Scrutiny Panels represent an opportunity for scrutiny councillors to delve deeper into a particular subject or issue to find out more, speak to the individuals responsible and recommend any ways in which things might be improved at a level of scrutiny not always possible within the time limits and formal setting associated with Committee meetings.

Scrutiny Panel A and Scrutiny Panel B will conduct each review in accordance with the following principles:

- Scrutiny Panels should aim to collect a broad range of evidence on the particular review, interviewing interested parties, and engaging local communities, where this is feasible.

- Scrutiny Panels should focus on developing realistic recommendations for improvement in relation to the topic under review.

- Scrutiny Panels will submit their draft reports to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration, approval and onward referral as appropriate.

Scrutiny Panel A and Scrutiny Panel B will undertake in-depth scrutiny reviews in accordance with the terms of reference and timetable determined for each review by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

Establishment of a Scrutiny Panel

A Scrutiny Panel should only be set up when a suitable topic for a scrutiny review is identified by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board using the Prioritisation Toolkit.

Each Scrutiny Panel will have up to eight members including the Chairman and Vice Chairman. The membership should be politically inclusive and all non-executive councillors (and added members for education reviews) are eligible. Nominations for membership of the Scrutiny Panels will be sought from the leader of each political group.

Identifying Potential Scrutiny Review Topics

Suggestions for scrutiny reviews may come from a variety of sources such as the scrutiny committees, other non-Executive Councillors, Executive Councillors, and senior officers.

When considering a potential topic for a scrutiny review, it is important that the Board ensures that the potential scrutiny review will not be duplicating any review work that is being undertaken by officers or external partners.

The remit for the potential scrutiny review should be focussed and not too broad, so that an in-depth review can be completed within a set timescale and will lead to achievable outcomes.

Once assigned to a Scrutiny Panel, the terms of reference will be finalised by the Scrutiny Panel.

Prioritising Topics for Scrutiny Reviews

Prioritisation is a key tool for successful scrutiny. Selecting the right topics where scrutiny can add value is essential for scrutiny to be a positive influence on the work of the Council. Scrutiny committees must be selective about what they look at and need to work effectively with limited resources. Scrutiny activity should be targeted, focused and timely and include issues of corporate and local importance, where scrutiny activity can influence and add value.

Proposal from the Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee

On 17 June 2021, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board requested that each scrutiny committee identified potential topics for in-depth scrutiny reviews, which would be undertaken by the two Scrutiny Panels, considering the Board's Prioritisation Toolkit.

The Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 19 July 2021 identified the topic "Review of Traffic Management in Lincolnshire" and agreed to submit this to the Board for consideration and decision at its meeting on 30 September 2021.

At the Board's meeting that took place on 30 September 2021, the topic proposed by the Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee was accepted as a potential future review to be allocated to one of the two Scrutiny Panels. In September 2021, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board's Prioritisation Toolkit was applied to the topic "Review of Traffic Management in Lincolnshire" and its priority level was determined as "moderate". This assessment was reviewed in July 2023 by the Policy team to see if anything has changed since September 2021, and an updated assessment is attached at Appendix A. The priority level remains as "moderate".

At the Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee meeting on 30 May 2022, officers submitted a proposal for setting up a working group that would be tasked with reviewing the existing Traffic Management Policy and propose options and recommendations for what an in-depth review should be focused on. The Committee agreed at the meeting that this was an appropriate way forward to pave the way for a potential in-depth scrutiny review to be carried out by one of the Scrutiny Panels in a future round of reviews.

On 24 April 2023, the Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee considered the outcomes from the Working Group (see Background Papers) and approved the key lines of enquiry identified by the Working Group to inform the scoping for a potential scrutiny review by one of the Scrutiny Panels, and agreed to recommend to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board that an in-depth review entitled Review of Traffic Management in Lincolnshire should be undertaken by one of the Scrutiny Panels in this Council term.

The proposed review would focus on the Traffic Management Policy implemented in Lincolnshire. All other types of policy outside the Highways sector would be excluded from the review.

The review would aim to:

1) Ensure that the existing policy remains relevant, effective and it meets requirements in line with legislation and government policy.

2) Propose a framework for Managing the Network Safely in Lincolnshire.
3) Verify whether the existing policy provides clear guidance on implementation and staff practice.

The Working Group recommended that the Scrutiny Panel adopts the specified format and layout below to inform the completion of the 'Managing the Network Safely' framework:

- Foreword by Cllr Richard Davies
- Speed Limit Policy
- Traffic Calming Guidance
- Traffic Regulation Order Policy
- Moving Traffic Enforcement
- Disabled Parking Bays
- Traffic Policy for Schools
- Weight Restrictions Policy / Lorry Watch
- Pedestrian Crossing Policy

The Working Group requested that the review includes consideration of deterring unauthorised advertising on highways.

The outputs of the Working Group have been used to inform a draft term of reference, set out at Appendix B to this report, which identifies and establishes the purpose of the proposed review and key lines of enquiry.

<u>Allocation to a Scrutiny Panel</u>

The scrutiny review on Lincolnshire Agriculture Sector Support by Scrutiny Panel B is coming to a close and the final report from the Panel is due to be considered by the Executive on 5 September 2023. Therefore, Scrutiny Panel B should soon become available to undertake a new review.

2. Conclusion

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is asked to consider and determine the request from the Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee for a scrutiny review on Traffic Management in Lincolnshire, and if agreed, allocate the review to Scrutiny Panel B to be undertaken as soon as it is practical to do so.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not Applicable

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Prioritisation Toolkit – Updated Assessment of Review of Traffic Management in Lincolnshire – July 2023
Appendix B	Proposed Terms of Reference for Review of Traffic Management in Lincolnshire Scrutiny Review

5. Background Papers

Document Title	Where the document can be viewed
Review of Traffic Management in Lincolnshire- Working Group Outcomes	Agenda for Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee on Monday, 24th April, 2023, 10.00 am (moderngov.co.uk)

This report was written by Nigel West, Head of Democratic Services and Statutory Scrutiny Officer, who can be contacted on 01522 552840 or by e-mail at nigel.west@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Prioritisation Toolkit – Updated Assessment of Review of Traffic Management in Lincolnshire – July 2023

	Does the topic affect a number of people living, working and studying in Lincolnshire?	Is the issue strategic and significant? (Very High, High, Moderate, Low)	Is there evidence to support the need for scrutiny that can add value? (Very High, High, Moderate, Low)	Is the Scrutiny timely or duplicating other work?
Traffic	Yes- Speeding issues are a reoccurring topic at Parish Council meetings and local community forums and are raised directly with Members and the Council as a concern by residents across the county.	**Moderate** Lincolnshire has the third most dangerous roads in the country statistically but it's difficult to quantify this as a result of speeding. 4.23 billion vehicle miles were travelled on roads in Lincolnshire in 2022 (Road traffic statistics - Local authority: Lincolnshire (dft.gov.uk)), reflecting the continued growth in the use of Lincolnshire roads and this is close to returning to the peak of pre-pandemic levels. RAC Foundation data shows that in 2020, within Lincolnshire, there were 124,534 speeding offences followed by 88,641 in 2021. (Speeding-2021-final.pdf (racfoundation.org)) Road speeds are a significant issue to residents especially on a parish/ward level and conversely can be an issue for business where delays are caused to delivery and supply chains by accidents, congestion, or too lower speed. This is not currently a national or regional government priority, nor is it a specific commitment in the Corporate Plan.	**Moderate** A potential scrutiny review by members could consider what the challenges and opportunities are for effective speed management around the county. Soft approaches include; availability of resources and funds, engaging with the public and specific hard measures to inhibit speeding, such as; installation of Speed Indicator Devices, use of Covert Surveillance, Community Speedwatch and enforcement.	Partially Timely - This topic has been deferred since September 2021 to allow for focus on other areas. This topic was identified as being moderately significant during the previous consideration, therefore should be considered at this time for review. However, there are still priorities in other areas for the council in the short to medium term. It would not be duplicated in other work.

.

Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Review of

Review of Traffic Speed Management in Lincolnshire

<u>Purpose of the Review</u>

(1) To consider what the challenges and opportunities are for effective speed management around the county.

(2) To carry out an in-depth review of the existing Traffic Management Policy and propose changes.

<u>Main Lines of Enquiry</u>

This review will focus on the Traffic Management Policy implemented in Lincolnshire. The review will aim to:

(1) Examine the existing Traffic Management Policy to determine whether it remains relevant and effective and meets the requirements in line with legislation and government policy.

(2) Propose a framework for Managing the Network Safely in Lincolnshire.

(3) Verify whether the existing policy provides clear guidance on implementation and staff practice.

<u>Benefits of the Review</u>

Speeding issues are a reoccurring topic at Parish Council meetings and local community forums and are raised directly with Members and the Council as a concern by residents across the county.

Lincolnshire has the third most dangerous roads in the country statistically, albeit it is still difficult to quantify whether this is as a result of speeding. Road speeds are a significant issue to residents especially on a parish/ward level and conversely can be an issue for business where delays are caused to delivery and supply chains by accidents, congestion, or too lower speed.

This is not currently a national or regional government priority, nor is it a specific commitment in the Corporate Plan.

Exclusion from the Review

This review will focus on the Traffic Management Policy implemented in Lincolnshire. All other types of policy outside the Highways sector will be excluded from the review.

Completion Dates

Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee – TBC

Executive – TBC